

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Scott D. Paul on 10/13/2008.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 1 (currently cancelled).

Claim 2 (currently cancelled).

Claim 3 (currently cancelled).

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 4, 6, 7, 8, 10 and 11 are allowed subsequent to a Board of patent Appeals and Interferences decision on 9/30/2008.

Note: Claims 6 (dependent of generic claim 4) and 10 (dependent of generic claim 8) were withdrawn as different species in the action mailed on 6/14/2005. Since the generic claims 4 and 8 are allowed the applicant is entitled to consideration of claims to additional species that is claims 6 and 10 which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim as provided by 37 CFR 1.141.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Regarding claim 4, the prior art of record, either alone or combined, does neither anticipate nor render obvious a method of cooperatively processing e- business transactions in an e-business complex comprising the steps, as a whole, of registering a plurality of virtual store operators with the e-business complex, each said registration establishing a virtual store in the e- business complex, providing to individual ones of on-line shoppers in the e-business complex, window displays of products offered for sale by virtual stores in the e-business complex, and accepting shopper orders for said products from said individual on-line shoppers, notifying selected store operators of said shopper orders, said selected store operators operating virtual stores in the e-business complex which correspond to said products ordered by said on-line shoppers, notifying selected vendors of said shopper orders, said selected vendors supplying said products offered for sale by said selected store operators, fulfilling said shopper orders with said products supplied by said selected vendors, collecting payments for said shopper orders from said on-line shoppers and distributing portions of said payments to each of said vendors and said store operators, providing to said store operators a catalog of professional services offered for sale by associated professional services providers; and, brokering at least one transaction for at least one of said professional services between at least one of said store operators and at least one of said professional service providers.

Since the limitations of the other independent claim 8 are similar to the limitations of claim 4 and are therefore analyzed and allowed on the basis of same rationale as set forth for claim 4 above.

Reasons for allowance for dependent claims 6-7 and 10-11 are same as set for claim 4 above.

The applicant's arguments presented in the Appeal Brief filed 1/8/2007 (see pages (4-8) that the cited prior art, alone or combined, does not teach or render obvious the limitation providing to said store operators a catalog of professional services offered for sale by associated professional services providers; and, brokering at least one transaction for at least one of said professional services between at least one of said store operators and at least one of said professional service providers are found compelling and persuasive (see Board' decision rendered on 9/30/2008, pages 3-5).

3. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Yogesh C. Garg whose telephone number is 571-272-6756. The examiner can normally be reached on Increased Flex/Hoteling.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeffrey A. Smith can be reached on 571-272-6763. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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